

treatment of this key topic could not help but result in oversimplification and failure to explain thoroughly.

Examples are given throughout the book as to specific design problems. These examples are very valuable since many of the equations given in the text often lack units. The inconsistency of defining the units in the various mathematical equations causes a certain amount of frustration for anyone trying to use the equations.

Much of the approach to design is based on the empirical mathematical approach rather than on fundamental scientific principles. It is difficult to separate the empirical relationships from the fundamental scientific relationships since the text is reduced to a minimum.

In spite of these shortcomings the book has brought together the major unit processes and has described the current design parameters. Advanced students will find the book helpful but beginning students will find the book frustrating.

ROSS E. MCKINNEY

**DOCTORS AND FAMILY PLANNING—By**

Mary Jean Cornish; Florence A. Ruderman; and Sydney S. Spivack. New York, N. Y.: National Committee on Maternal Health (Two East 103rd St.), 1963. 100 pp. Price, \$2.

This study of the role of physicians in providing information, counseling, and professional services concerned with family planning was carried out just before oral contraceptives came on the market. This is not a deficiency of the study, but an advantage. With this baseline there will be an opportunity to study the impact of oral and intrauterine contraceptives on physicians' activities in family planning.

This is essentially a qualitative rather than quantitative study of physicians' activities for two reasons: (1) The sample of 551 practicing physicians is not a probability sample of American physicians, but is taken from three pairs of clusters of communities approxi-

mately matched on social, economic, and urban-rural characteristics, but with contrasting proportions of Catholics within each pair, designed to permit assessment of these characteristics on physicians' opinions and actions. (2) Answers are necessarily based on physicians' impressions, rather than any actual statistics.

Physicians found to be most active in counseling patients concerning family planning were: obstetricians and gynecologists; younger physicians; physicians of high professional status; and physicians in communities in which the climate of opinion favors dissemination of birth control information. However, the physician's own religion (Catholic or non-Catholic) turns out to be the most important variable in determining both the physician's activity in counseling and in the choice of methods, with the religion of the patient exerting a lesser but still potent effect.

The authors conclude that most physicians recognize a widespread desire of people for family planning. However, relatively few physicians routinely discuss family planning during premarital or postpartum examinations, most regarding this as a supplementary rather than an essential part of medical care. The authors find very little communication among physicians regarding family planning and therefore no real consensus either on indications or methods of fertility control. The American Medical Association's new Committee on Human Reproduction will doubtless make a major contribution to this much needed communication among physicians.

JOHAN W. ELIOT

**EPISODE—By Eric Hodgins.** New York, N. Y.: Atheneum (162 East 38th St.), 1964. 272 pp. Price, \$5.

To see things as the ill, the regulated, the handicapped, and the people in their variabilities see them is not given to us

fully; but now and then a book comes along that wipes away some of the haze. Such a one is "Episode," the tale of a gifted writer who suffered a stroke while remaining conscious. He tells of his medical course and hospitalization, of how his world seemed to fall apart, the promise for his future, of several months in a psychiatric hospital, of a hip fracture, and thereafter of return to productivity with acceptance of residual disability. The author writes of physicians who perceive and those who do not, of inane hospital routines, of good and of inconsiderate nurses, of odd attendants such as one with the alfalfa juice complex. A wise and understanding nurse stands out, Miss MacFarlane, who pulled him from the mire of depression. The book is intensely interesting, jolting at times, humorous too, as it carries us along the path of a perceptive person in catastrophe. Mr. Hodgins has been the editor of *Fortune* magazine, and is author of "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House."

CARL J. POTTHOFF

**ADVANCES IN VETERINARY SCIENCE,**  
Vol. 8.—Edited by Carl A. Brandly and E. L. Jungherr. New York, N. Y.: Academic Press (111 Fifth Ave.), 1964. 453 pp. Price, \$16.

In the past decade, "Advances in Veterinary Science" has been recognized as one of the outstanding reviews in its field. Since publishing Volume 1 in 1953, the editors and advisory board have sought diligently the leading in-

vestigators in various fields to review new developments pertinent to veterinary science. The developments in veterinary science and related fields have produced so comprehensive a literature that one cannot keep abreast of all advances. In the first volume, the editors stated that the purpose of these reviews would be to call attention to and supplement more exhaustive treatises on special topics. The editors and authors have achieved their goal and provided excellent reviews over the years. Volume 8 is no exception and maintains the high standards and purpose of the series.

The authors report on a wide spectrum of problems which relate to health and disease. Among the subjects covered are African swine fever, one of the most serious swine diseases of the world; viral diarrhea mucosal disease complex, an important cattle problem; infectious equine anemia, a crippling infection of horses; and, toxoplasmosis, a ubiquitous infection of animals and sometimes man. The effects of environment on health and disease is also discussed, as is the response of the body to stress, contagion, and hormones. The reviews are of sufficient depth to give the reader a reasonable knowledge of the current status of the subject. This is a book to be recommended to all who are interested in veterinary science, medicine, and biology, and especially to those who are concerned with newly evolving disease problems.

JAMES H. STEELE

## BOOKS RECEIVED

Listing in this column acknowledges the receipt of books and our appreciation to the senders. Space and the interests of readers will permit review of some, but not all, of the books listed.

BAHAMA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
BURNS. A Symposium. Philadelphia, Pa.:  
Dorrance, 1964. 209 pp. Price, \$12.50.  
BEST'S SAFETY-MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR COM-

BINED WITH THE MANUAL OF MODERN  
SAFETY TECHNIQUES (10th ed.). New York,  
N. Y.: Alfred M. Best, 1964. 772 pp. Price,  
\$10.